

Otepka Demoted and Rebuked; Retains State Department Job

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (UPI)—Otto F. Otepka, the State Department security officer accused four years ago of giving confidential information to unauthorized persons, has been reprimanded and demoted, official sources said Monday night.

Mr. Otepka was notified of the action in a letter to his attorney, Roger Robb, from Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

Secretary Rusk dismissed Mr. Otepka from his position as chief of the evaluations section of the security office in November, 1963. Mr. Otepka was charged with having given classified documents to J. G. Sourwine, chief counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

Mr. Otepka appealed his dismissal and asked for a hearing within the State Department, a procedure that permitted him to retain his title and salary although he was given routine indexing duties pending the outcome.

Mr. Robb said he did not know whether Mr. Otepka would appeal Secretary Rusk's final ruling. He said he and his client had not had an opportunity to discuss it.

The demotion would cost Mr. Otepka a reduction in grade amounting to about \$2,000 less a year. He is on the payroll now at slightly over \$20,000.

Mr. Rusk's final decision was delayed by the granting of Mr. Robb's requests for a postponement of the hearing until the Senate subcommittee had made public all the testimony it took from Mr. Otepka.

The hearing officer finally agreed upon by the department and Mr. Otepka was a lawyer with the Agency for International Development, Edward A. Dragon.

In his ruling, handed down last Tuesday, Mr. Dragon found Mr. Otepka guilty of the dereliction charged but suggested that Mr. Rusk, in making his final decision, take into consideration Mr. Otepka's assertion that there was no regular standard of conduct for Federal employes in such matters.

It is understood that the job to which Mr. Rusk assigned him is in personnel work, but other details were not available except that he would not be in a position of authority to hire and dismiss.

NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1967

Otepka Reports for Work, Gets Leave Till Early 1968

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—Otto F. Otepka, former chief security evaluator of the State Department, reported for work today at the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for organization and management, officials said.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk ruled earlier this week that Mr. Otepka be reprimanded, demoted and reassigned to the office for organization and management. He was charged with giving classified information to a Senate subcommittee without authorization.

The Rusk decision became effective at midnight last night and Mr. Otepka showed up this morning, inquired about his new job and then asked to be given leave until early next year. The request was granted, officials said.

The fact that Mr. Otepka reported for work does not mean that he acquiesced in Mr. Rusk's ruling. Roger Robb, Mr. Otepka's lawyer, said his client had not made up his mind yet whether to appeal to the Civil Service Commission.